Cancellation of joint Oil exploration ventures by Foreign companies

4370. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two foreign companies have cancelled their joint oil exploration ventures with the ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(c) in what manner Government propose to enter into joint exploration ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the blocks offered under the joint venture exploration programme-1995, the joint ventures would be formed between ONGC/OIL and foreign/Indian companies wherein ONGC/OIL will take participating interests between 25% to 40% from the beginning of contracts.

NTPC power project at Ramanagaram

4371. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is getting up a thermal power project in Ramanagram taluk in Bangalore District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project and whether the NTPC has asked the Karnataka Government to acquire land; and

(c) where the project would be located and the extent of land required for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above

NRIs proposals to set up power projects

4372. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 50 proposals for setting up of power projects by NRIs indicating probable locations, installed capacity and implementing agencies;

(b) the number of those proposals which have taken real shape; and

(c) the estimated investments involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) As on date, 54 proposals involving foreign investment on the Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Intent, etc., route costing more than Rs. 100 crores and on the competitive bidding route costing more than Rs. 1000 crores, have been received for setting up power projects in the private sector. The State-wise details of these projects indicating their capacity, provisional cost and name of the company are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 180, Annexure No. 90] Out of these, 16 proposals have been accorded techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 21 projects have been cleared from the foreign investment angle and 3 projects have received counter guarantee of the Government of India, construction work has commenced on six projects (Jegurupadu GBPP, Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh, Hazira and Paguthan CCGT in Gujarat, Maheswar HEP in Madhya Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) in Maharashtra. Out of which two have partially commissioned. The

extent of capital investment can be assessed only after these projects are completed.

Proposal to stop power generation by Eastern GRID

4373. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eastern power grid has surplus power;

(b) whether the eastern grid is proposing to shut off some of its generation units as the power is in excess of their requirements; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry of Power would direct the eastern grid to supply excess power to power starved State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Transfer of surplus power in the order of 150 MW from Eastern Region to the Southern Region (Andhra Pradesh) is already taking place for which a PPA has already been signed between NTPC and APSEB.

Funds spent by REC

4374. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds spent by Rural Electrification Corporation in 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the states which have properly utilised the funds; and

(c) the steps proposed by rural Electrification Corporation to encourage alternate energy sources in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During the year 1996-97, the Rural Electrification Corporation had disbursed Rs. 812.56 crores (Provisional and unaudited) to various States as per details given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(b) The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura have fully utilised the funds.

(c) Keeping in view the need to provide electricity to all the villages, REC has been exploring possibilities of electrifying the balance villages and augmenting power supply to the rural areas through alternate energy sources. Guidelines for financing of small power generation projects have been finalised by REC, which encourage participation by private sector agencies, Non-Government organisations, State Electricity Boards and State agencies.

Statement

Statewise Disbursement during 1996-97 (Report as on 31.03.1997)

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Allocation	Disbursement (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5150	1787
2.	Aruanchal Pradesh	995	1199
3.	Assam	2075	13
4.	Bihar	1896	0
5.	Delhi	25	0
6.	Goa	25	197